

#### IV. Remarks

The provisional allowance of claims 5, 7-19, 26, 28-34, and 45 is acknowledged. The above amendments place the claims in allowable form.

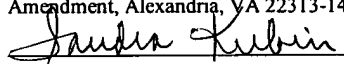
In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 5, and claims 7, 26, 28 and 45 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 4, 5, 22, 24, 25, 27, 35-41 and 43 have been cancelled and claims 3, 6, 23, 42, 44, and 46 have been amended to depend on a new allowable independent claim. Dependent claims 8-21, 29-34, which also depend from allowable claims, have been maintained in their original form.

In view of the above, a formal notice of allowance requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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